

Frequently Asked Questions

Kentucky Board of Licensure for Occupational Therapy

Q. – What is DPAM Specialty Certification?

A. – In order to use deep physical agent modalities in Kentucky, a practitioner must comply with regulations which require an application process. Please refer to 201 KAR 28:170 for specific details.

Q. – Can the required training and instruction hours for DPAM Specialty Certification be based upon prior experience in another state’s jurisdiction?

A. – No. The statute KRS 219A.080 specifies the hours of training or instruction required and the regulation 201 KAR 28:170 Section 3 “Training and Instruction (1) The training and instruction must be earned by direct personal participation in courses, workshops, or seminars.”

Q. – Who can provide supervision for the 5 treatment sessions required for DPAM Specialty Certification?

A. – The supervisor must complete the “Supervisor Application” form as well as have the “Verification of Supervision Qualifications” sent to the KBLOT office and approved by the KBLOT Board prior to providing the supervised treatment sessions.

Q. – Do the 5 supervised treatment sessions for DPAM certification have to be on a patient or can the therapists supervise the treatment sessions on each other?

A. – According to the regulation 201 KAR 28:170 Section 4 (a). “The ability to evaluate the client and make an appropriate selection of the deep physical agent to be utilized;” this section implies yes, it must be a patient and yes, it could be in a case study if it meets the above criteria.

Section 4 (2) of the regulation says: “The supervised treatment sessions shall include one (1) session for each of the following areas:

- (a) Iontophoresis;
 - (b) Ultrasound; and
 - (c) Electrical stimulation.
- (3) The remaining two (2) sessions may cover any deep physical agent identified in KRS 319A.010(8).
- (4) Supervised treatment sessions may be completed in a laboratory portion of an instructional course, provided that the instructor meets the board’s requirements for a DPAM Specialty Certification supervisor and that all of the requirements of this administrative regulation have been met.”

This section implies the supervised treatment sessions are a part of a goal directed intervention process.

Q. - Does a course, workshop, or seminar need to be pre-Approved by AOTA, ASHT, or the Board?

A. - No, the DPAM Educational Requirements form has checks for these types of courses because the regulation states that courses pre-approved are acceptable. KBLOT will not have to again review the course when application is made, thus expediting the application process.

Q. - How does one "count" a college credit course in deep physical agent modalities?

A. - One college level credit for a course is based upon one hour per week over the course of a semester. Therefore the credit hours can be calculated based upon the University's standards for what constitutes a credit hour and semester length.

Q. - What are the timelines for completion of the continuing education requirements (example- can you include a course that was taken prior to the law going into effect)?

A. – There are no timelines when the continuing education is taken.

Q. - Can the continuing education be completed prior to graduation / in school?

A. - Yes.

Q. - Do you have to have an order to utilize a modality on a patient?

A. – Yes, the individual providing the supervision would be responsible for assuring this.

Q. - How do you bill for doing the modality on a patient during a supervised treatment session?

A. – The individual providing the supervision is responsible for the billing according to facility policy.

Q. - Can a physical therapy assistant serve as a supervisor for the DPAM supervised visits?

A. – The supervisor must be able to sign and validate the required application to be a qualified supervisor.

Q. - What if an OT has a license in another state and has been using DPAM's for years, can the individual sign herself off for the supervised DPAM sessions in KY?

A. – No.

Q. - What if a physical therapist providing the supervised treatment sessions is concerned about the liability of supervising an occupational therapist with their patient?

A. – It is the supervisee's responsibility to have a supervisor who is comfortable and willing to provide supervision. No individual should provide supervision if he/she does not feel competent or comfortable to provide supervision.

Q. - Does an OTA holding a DPAM certification have to be supervised by an OT with DPAM certification?

A. – Yes. The OT must have the DPAM certification if DPAMs are to be part of the plan of care for a client.